

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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1. Representatives of the East German government and of the Soviet information services are said to have made an agreement in Moscow on 19 December 1952 under which the TASS agency was to take charge, as of 1 January 1953, of all the information and propaganda services of the DDR, including the ADN and the Office for Information. This would leave the DDR government dependent for its information on TASS, over which it has no control.
2. This agreement led to the abolition of the Office of Information as such, although some of its services, of a formal or semi-official nature, were continued by the Press Office of the Minister President, under the supervision of Dr. Fritz Geyer. The ADN will become a branch office of TASS, headed by Mrs. Deba Wieland until a representative of TASS arrives from Moscow. Services of "general political propaganda" and of information control, and public-opinion surveys, previously part of the Office for Information, will be put under the Central Committee of the SED.
3. A commission appointed to execute the agreement will settle personnel questions arising from the changes. It is reported that 26 employees of the ADN and 187 employees of the Office for Information had been discharged up to the end of January 1953.
4. These changes are supposed to have been made because of dissatisfaction with the propaganda work done hitherto by the Office for Information, and because of the fear of a repetition of certain cases when important information leaked out to the West, presumably from the Office for Information. Security considerations became all the more significant with the growing strength of the East German army and with the increased probability of the ratification of the defense treaties in Bonn.

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